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Here We Go Again

A House committee headed by Representative Davis of Georgia has spent months investigating crime in the District, and has come up with a series of legislative recommendations to remedy weak spots in law enforcement that it detected. Now it is proposed that a Senate committee do the whole thing over again. It would be interesting to know why.

There have been suggestions that the Senators have been reading magazine articles and books about Washington's crime and are disturbed by the charges (largely phony) that were made. A recent shooting in a downtown bottle club is given as another reason. But these justifications are not very convincing. If the Senators believe that the Davis committee has not done a thorough job, or that it has whitewashed some aspects of the crime picture, there is a legitimate basis for a second investigation. If they do not believe this, more constructive results would be obtained if the Senators would get behind the legislative recommendations which have emerged from the House study.

The extravagant statements in some books and magazine articles may serve to transfer dollars from the pockets of glibble readers to the authors. But if this is the real reason for the proposed Senate investigation, the only substantial result will be to waste the time of the Senators and the money of the taxpayers.

To Infuse New Life in the Reserves

The reserve reorganization program recommended by the Defense Department will lay the groundwork for a military manpower reservoir of the type proposed under pending universal service and training plans. Some such reorganization of the Army, Navy and Air Force reserves is necessary if the service-or-training program is to be carried out as envisioned at the Pentagon. The "graduates" of service or training cannot be fitted easily into the existing reserve setup.

The reserve organization today consists of organized units and volunteers not regularly assigned to units. Both classes of reservists are subject to call in time of war or national emergency. Reservists who cannot devote sufficient time to reserve matters during peacetime may find themselves relegated to inactive status, but may be called in an emergency. There is no provision in the over-all program for a steady influx of new men from training camps or for automatic release of "stale" reservists to make way for UMT graduates or men who have completed required service in the regular military establishment.

The organized and volunteer classifications would be eliminated under the new Pentagon plan in favor of two active and one retired classes. The active classes would be the Ready Reserve, liable for active-duty call whenever military necessity requires, and the Standby Reserve, subject to call only in time of war or national emergency. The Retired Reserve would consist of members who had completed 20 years of service or who have become disabled. All but the disabled might be ordered to active duty in wartime or national emergency.

Legislation proposed by the administration would require all men drafted for service or UMT to enter the Ready Reserve upon completion of active service or training. They would remain in the Ready Reserve for at least three years. Then they would have the option of transferring to the Standby Reserve for a period yet to be established by Congress. Among the advantages of this plan are: (1) Reservists would have a definite idea of how long their periods of service would be, and (2) the reserve organization would be a strong, live outfit, constantly infused with new blood from the regular forces or UMT camps. The reserves long have been in need of some such infusion—coincident with elimination of deadwood which now hampers efficient operation.

Fair Play for Fairfax Teachers

The Fairfax Board of Supervisors is justified in its determination to reduce the proposed county budget to a minimum consistent with good government. With a heavy increase in taxes facing county residents as a result of a sweeping reassessment of real estate, every non-essential item should be trimmed from the tentative \$6,167,370 budget for the next fiscal year. But in carving off the fat, care should be taken not to cut into any vital spots. One such vital spot is the allowance for a modest increase in teachers' salaries.

Teachers in Fairfax County are notoriously ill-paid. They receive less money than teachers in any other part of the Washington Metropolitan Area, yet they are required to work under disgraceful conditions of overcrowding. A bond issue to rectify these conditions has been held up by litigation, so that immediate relief is not to be expected. The minimum salary for teachers in Fairfax County is \$2,200, as compared with \$2,500 in Arlington and \$2,400 in Alexandria and Falls Church. The maximum salary in Fairfax is \$3,600, compared with \$4,300 in Arlington and \$3,800 in Alexandria and Falls Church. The Fairfax School Board is asking that the minimum be raised to \$2,500 and the maximum to \$4,000. If increases asked by school boards in neighboring Virginia jurisdictions are granted, the proposed Fairfax scale would still be well below that prevailing in the area.

The budget recommended by the School Board is \$4.9 million. None of this money would go for school construction. It is essentially an operating budget. The Fairfax Federation of Citizens' Associations has pointed out that even with the proposed increases Fairfax County still would be spending one third less than Arlington

for teaching materials, health programs, cafeteria support and maintenance of plant and equipment. The major increase in the budget would go for salary raises and for the hiring of 100 new teachers to care for 3,000 new students. If there is to be any cutting of the school budget, it should not be done at the expense of the county's underpaid and overworked teachers. That would be adding insult to injury. It would be a blow which would only depress further the already lowered morale of a faithful, indispensable group of public servants and which would complicate the county's problem of obtaining and holding on to a competent teaching staff. The county should not administer such a blow to its already ailing school system.

Politics and Postmasterships

The shocking extent of the postal-jobs-for-sale racket in Mississippi as revealed by a Post Office Department investigation ought to force congressional action on the dormant Hoover plan for taking postmasterships out of politics. A department official has told a Senate committee that proof has been obtained that postal jobs have been sold brazenly by political stooges of a since-repudiated "Trumanite" faction in Mississippi. Four acting postmasters and four temporary rural carriers already have been fired as a result of the department's inquiry and charges have been brought against four permanent postmasters and 36 rural carriers.

The Hoover Commission did not go so far as to say that political selection of postmasters was attended by corruption. It did report that "ambition is discouraged and efficiency reduced" by the injection of political patronage into the postal field. It recommended that the present system of requiring Senate confirmation of postmasters be abolished, that the Postmaster General be divorced from any official connection with a political party (a policy already adopted with the appointment of Postmaster General Donaldson, a career man) and that all postmasterships be filled strictly through the merit system.

The Hoover recommendations were referred last year to the Senate Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, which promptly pigeonholed it. Apparently the Senators objected to any curtailment of their privileges in having a voice in the appointment of postmasters. That, however, was before the scandal in Mississippi was exposed by Senators Eastland and Stennis, who demanded a Senate investigation. This investigation confirmed all that the Mississippi Senators had charged and unearthed much more. The Senate group even found that the Democratic faction in power in Mississippi had "sold" Federal jobs that did not exist. The price for a job was a "contribution" to the State committee.

The Post Office investigation was conducted independently after complaints were received of irregularities in the Southern State. The departmental inquiry is continuing. Enough has been uncovered, however, to support the Hoover Commission's denunciation of political postmasterships. Postmaster General Donaldson wholeheartedly has endorsed the Hoover plan. He now is prepared to produce convincing evidence of the dangers of mixing politics with postal appointments.

Limiting Access to Shirley Highway

Virginia's Highway Commission has adopted a resolution which, in effect, is a warning to Alexandria and other communities bordering Shirley Highway that the State will fight any attempt to open more access roads along that restricted boulevard. The warning is timely, in view of Alexandria's annexation of land on both sides of the new divided-lane highway. The possibility that Alexandria might want to build additional entrances to the road was suggested during the recent annexation proceedings. At that time a representative of the city disclaimed any knowledge of plans for such a move.

Shirley Highway was built as a limited-access thoroughfare, designed to facilitate the movement of traffic between Washington and Woodbridge, on U. S. Route 1. It is the fourth restricted highway in Virginia, the others being the Virginia Beach boulevard out of Norfolk, the Fredericksburg bypass on Route 1 and a short stretch of U. S. Route 58 west of Danville. The State Highway Commission's resolution points out that it is considered "highly important that regardless of the political subdivisions in which Shirley Highway and other limited-access highways lie, said highways retain for all time their limited access features." Not to adhere to this sensible policy would be to defeat the purpose for which Shirley Highway was built, to convert it into another Richmond highway with its many cross-road traffic hazards and tie-ups.

Adams Relics to the Smithsonian

The giving of more than 500 mementoes of the famous Adams family of Massachusetts to the Smithsonian Institution is an event of considerable consequence. It represents a patriotic generosity on the part of the donor, the late Mary Louisa Adams Clement. Further, it suggests the importance of such collections to the Nation. Similarly intimate materials of American history are scarce, rare and very precious. When they are given to the people of the United States, as these things have been, they constitute a great enrichment of the country at large.

Miss Clement pondered the disposition of her property for a long while. The houses of her ancestors at Quincy had been conveyed to public trust with practically all their contents. What she had in her possession at Warrenton, Virginia, she decided, should be deposited in the Nation's Capital. Her contribution has obvious national value, and she has placed it here in the Federal City on that particular account.

The items selected for initial exhibition in the Arts and Industries Building are fair specimens of the entire accumulation. A portrait of President John Adams by Gilbert Stuart is perhaps the prize piece in the show. It depicts the second Chief Magistrate when he was 88, and when the artist himself no longer was young. But it is a master-achievement of delineation, and no one who sees it ever is likely to forget its beauty and power. But the pictures of the junior members of the family also are fascinating. The likeness of President John Quincy Adams by Peter von Hufel, painted at Ghent in 1815, is a revelation to visitors to the museum who commonly think of the subject only as he was when he was very old.

Miss Clement's donation includes many of the objects embraced in the portraits. Exhibited in the same case with a fine portrait of Mrs. John Quincy Adams are a harp and a book which are with her in the picture. Her wedding veil and the christening robes of her children are on display. The collection includes china, silver, jewelry, dolls, toys, chess men, fabrics of different kinds and many articles of domestic utility and decoration. Through examination of these gifts, it is possible to look into the past from which some of our best American traditions have come.

The Defense of America's Back Yard

By Keyes Beech

"I DON'T WANT to tell Joe Stalin what to do," said Lt. Gen. William E. Kepner, "but if I were going to try to take Alaska I'd do it with paratroops."

The Russians pioneered paratrooping, and just in case Stalin has something like that in mind, Kepner wants his Alaskan command to be ready.

That's the reason for "Operation Fire-step." These maneuvers, which got under way early this month and continued through last Wednesday, were aimed at repelling an airborne invasion.

I learned about the operation when I came through Alaska on my way home from Tokyo a couple of weeks ago. For the first time in the history of Alaskan war games airborne troops were taking part. A battalion of paratroopers was to be flown up from Fort Bragg, N. C., in a test run to see how long it would take to get reinforcements up there from the States in case they're needed.

The Army, Navy and Air Force are participating in this uniquely unified command. That Alaska is an airman's theater is recognized by the fact that Kepner is an Air Force general. But he has naval officers in top staff positions, and his chief of staff is an Army general.

"You never can tell when a fellow is going to try to come in your back door," said Kepner. "Or start a fire in your back yard to divert your attention from the front of the house."

Alaska, in our overall strategic planning, is America's back yard. From Siberia, which lies only 40 or 50 miles from Alaska across the Bering Straits, is Russia's shortest bomber run to such ripe targets as West Coast aircraft plants, the Hanford plutonium plant—and upper Midwest industrial centers like Detroit.

If the Air Force knows what the Russians are up to in Chukotski Peninsula, which juts out from the Siberian land mass like a threatening thumb, it wasn't saying.

"But," said Kepner with a glance at the polar map on his spruce-paneled wall, "we know they have enough planes over there to put up 15 or 20 to one of ours. They've done it."

It is also reported the Russians are



Air Force Photo.
LT. GEN. WILLIAM E. KEPNER.
"They could land tomorrow, but..."

building up fuel supplies on Chukotski.

There are two reasons why the Russians might attack Alaska. In the minds of military planners, the first would be to deny us its offensive use as a takeoff point for long range bombers headed for Russian industrial and population centers. Alaska has one of the largest airfields in the world. From it, B-36s carrying atomic bombs could—and probably would—take off for such Siberian industrial centers as the Lake Baikal region. That's where the Russians are reported to have their own atom bomb plant.

The second reason would be to use Alaska to mount an air attack on the United States.

"The Russians could land in Alaska tomorrow, if they wanted to, just as we could land in Siberia," said Kepner. "We have thousands of miles of coastline. But whether they would go anywhere after they landed is another matter."

Letters to The Star

Mr. Marlow's Question

On the front page of the Sunday Star of April 22, James Marlow, Associated Press staff writer, outlines the MacArthur issue in just one question. That question is: Not knowing what Russia would or would not do, nor where our would lead, what would you do if you had to make the decision on widening the war on China?

The issue cannot be stated in this one question. For if you decided not to carry out the four steps advocated by Gen. MacArthur, the next question would immediately follow: that is, what would you do? Would you continue the so-called "stalemate," thereby subjecting thousands of American boys to death and disability—and if so, how long would you continue it and to what purpose? If you would not continue this "limited war" indefinitely, what would you do?

You cannot answer Mr. Marlow's question without answering this second question, for the decision on the second question would have to be made immediately following the decision on the first. The tragedy is that the powers that be have decided the first question without deciding the second.

Mrs. E. B. Puhols.

The Real Notley Hall?

George Kennedy's article on Broad Greek, in a recent issue, treated of one of the most interesting but least known areas of suburban Washington. Few rural districts can boast such a number of authentic colonial structures still standing, and there are some remarkable features associated with each.

"Harmony Hall," the beautiful Collins mansion, was built in 1723 (the same year and by the same workmen who constructed St. John's Church nearby) and its floors, woodwork, stairway and built-in cabinets are notable.

An equally famous structure stands below the mansion on the bank of Wide Water Cove, clearly visible from the home above; "Want Water," although ruinous now, was built in 1704, and extensive information concerning it is on file at the Library of Congress. It is one of Prince Georges' minor tragedies that proper restoration was not undertaken when it was possible to do so without incredible expense.

Within a few yards of "Harmony Hall," and on the same estate, is a charming example of 18th century construction with a startling background: For a century and a half, this house stood in the Piscataway vicinity, several miles away, until dismantled and carefully reassembled on its present site in the 1930s. The double chimneys with a windowless pent between are a rare feature in this area.

Some question exists as to whether Mr. Kennedy's picture of "Notley Hall" is indeed the house dating from the 1690s. The "Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog" curiously ignores it, although the writers and researchers here were in many instances the same who compiled the "Maryland Guide Book." Certainly, its roof construction

is inconsistent with 17th century building, and the condition of its brick walls would lead one to doubt the age claimed for it.

Probably Prince Georges' most inaccessible colonial structure stands gaunt and wearily below "Notley" on the bank of the Potomac. Known locally as "Lower Notley" or "Roser House," there is a strong possibility that this is actually the "Notley Hall" of history. In any



event, tiny and dilapidated though it may be (nearing its third century), it has an astounding feature. Lacking a basement, there are, nevertheless, two underground brick vaults quite close to the house, which local residents will tell you were tombs until recent years. The larger of the two is nearly the size of the house itself, and some builder in bygone days lavished great care on his workmanship with oversized, handmade bricks in his walls and vaulted ceilings. Today they serve as macabre forts for the local cowboy and Indian element.

Broad Creek is an interesting neighborhood, and we owe thanks to Mr. Kennedy for publicizing it.

James C. Wilfong, Jr.

Pleasant Ridge Report

As a taxpayer in the Pleasant Ridge subdivision, I wish to make clear that the report of the committee of the Pleasant Ridge Taxpayers' Association in the Sunday Star of April 22 represented the views of only the six committee members.

It not only does not represent the views of probably the majority of taxpayers in this small subdivision, but does not even represent the views of that taxpayers' group, for the report has not yet been presented to the membership for consideration, but was released days in advance of the meeting.

The report itself shows great ignorance of the needs of the Fairfax County schools today, and the ridiculous charges of extravagance in a budget that falls so pitifully short of providing adequate school facilities due to the absence of new construction funds, and which has already been pared of some essentials, make it necessary for some one to make clear that many citizens of Pleasant Ridge are not unwilling to pay for proper schooling for their children.

It is surprising and disturbing that the opinions of a few citizens of Fairfax County have been given greater

The defense of Alaska is built around the "heartland" concept, which was supposed to be secret until a news magazine published the whole plan five months ago.

Between Alaska's heartland and the ocean lie thousands of miles of trackless tundra and jagged saw-tooth mountains, inhabited only by Eskimos and animals. In the defense concept, this sea of tundra is considered as effective a barrier as the ocean itself.

"We don't mean to say that an enemy couldn't cross it," said an Air Force officer, "but his supply problems would be so great as to make it highly impractical."

The "islands" of defense in the heartland form a triangle. They are Elmendorf Field at Anchorage, the Island naval base of Kodiak in the Southwest, and Ladd Field at Fairbanks in the North—only 90 miles from the Arctic Circle.

To avoid spreading himself too thin, Kepner has concentrated his forces in these three areas. But the idea is to defend all Alaska from the heartland—not just the heartland itself.

To defend an area twice as big as Texas, Kepner is relying primarily on air power. His 500-mile-an-hour jets, equipped to fly and fight in any kind of weather, can be over any part of Alaska in a whoosh.

He has roughly a regiment of ground troops, and could use more if he had some way of housing them. Housing is the military's number one headache in Alaska.

It is assumed that any Russian attack would come with Pearl Harbor suddenness. To guard against this, the Alaskan coast is being ringed with radar stations. These stations are usually situated on the highest mountain top that can be found, to give maximum range.

Building these stations is a task that takes months. Merely getting the equipment to the site over frozen mountains and tundra is a staggering job.

In addition to radar, Kepner is relying on "bush" pilots—Alaska aboriginals in the Eskimo's "muckluk" telegraph, fur trappers and other dwellers of the remote North.

(Chicago Daily News Foreign Service.)

All letters are subject to condensation. Pen names may be used if letters carry writers' correct names and addresses.

prominence and more detailed reporting than the resolutions in favor of the proposed budget passed in every PTA in the county (except one, which merely appointed a delegation to represent it in supporting the school budget at the public hearing), for the PTAs have a membership of not six citizens, but 5,000 citizens of Fairfax County.

The many school children of the county who, even if the proposed budget is passed, will be attending school in half-day sessions, and in corridor, Sunday school, basement, firehouse and auditorium classrooms, will have been woefully neglected if this minimum budget is cut.

Edward A. Macy.

Pleasant Ridge, Annandale, Va.

Children in War

The other day, my children went to school excited over the prospect of their first atomic bomb drill.

At the scheduled hour, with sirens screaming throughout the city, I was chilled by the stark realization of their significance, and filled with an acute horror of war and fear for the future of children growing up in such an era as the present one.

One could recall the children of Poland, fighting with the underground and attacking German tanks with gasoline bombs; the children of China, orphaned, lost and starving; the children of Greece, stolen away from their homes, families and country. And, more recently, little babies in Korea, naked and abandoned in the ice and snow.

These are the tragically innocent ones who pay in war. For if they survive at all, they pay with a childhood that is a nightmare and with lives that are shattered almost before they are begun.

The people of this country are fortunate, and blessed that they have never been faced with invasion, defeat and occupation by barbarians. This blessing will not long be ours, however, unless we begin to fight, and fight hard, to rid ourselves of softness and apathy, of incompetence and dishonest leaders, traitors, appeasers—and a policy that sells out our friends and gives support to our enemies.

If we begin to fight hard enough at home for our children, our freedom and all that this country means to us, then it may never be necessary to fight another war to end all wars, and this time—civilization.

Mother.

Mr. T. Isn't Caesar's Wife

One important aspect of the Truman-MacArthur controversy, which seems to demand immediate clarification in the public interest, is the mistaken assumption that a President, when exercising his authority as Commander in Chief, should automatically command the support of the country.

That theory presupposes that a Chief Executive, like Caesar's wife, can do no wrong. None of our Presidents has yet acquired that mantle of infallibility, and least of all Mr. Truman.

J. T. P.

Hydrogen-Helium Cycle Described to Physicists

Called Major Source of Heat And Light of the Sun

By Thomas R. Henry

A billion-year cycle in which hydrogen, the mother gas of creation, is converted into the ashes of helium was described to the American Physical Society here today as the major source of the heat and light of the sun.

Hitherto the heat which warms the solar system has been attributed chiefly to the so-called "carbon cycle" in which helium is created out of hydrogen by a much more rapid process. But, it was stressed before the physicists, the new process must be at least 100-fold more important, even though it is hundreds of times slower.

This process is the "proton-proton reaction." It postulates that two protons, each of which is a nucleus of a hydrogen atom, pass close enough to each other so that they stick together. Thus they form one atom of double weight hydrogen or deuterium. The closeness of contact at which this sticking together will take place is incredibly precise—about the fraction of a centimeter represented by one over 10 followed by 50 ciphers. If they pass at any greater distance, they simply fly past each other.

Series of Transmutations.

Once the deuterium atom is formed, the process involves a series of transmutations of elements involving lithium and beryllium until finally a double atom of helium is formed. A certain amount of energy is released in the process which was calculated at about 100 ergs per gram per second of the solar matter involved. An erg is an extremely small amount of energy but the figure becomes enormously great when it is considered that about a fifth of the mass of the sun constantly is involved. This is the matter at the sun's center where the temperature is at a minimum of 15 million degrees centigrade.

By this process, combined with the carbon cycle, the sun actually loses mass at a rate of millions of tons a day—but still the loss is too minute relative to the sun's complete mass to be measured by any technique known to man.

The carbon cycle still takes place in the sun, it was emphasized in a report presented by Drs. Edward Frieman and Lloyd Motz of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, but is not anywhere near so prominent as has been emphasized in the past. It still is the predominant source of energy in the stars which sprinkle space. The sun is only a medium star, rather on the cold side.

An important feature of the new theory is that it does not require any particular temperature in which to function. It could proceed at any temperature down to absolute zero, but it would decrease rapidly in efficiency below 15,000,000 degrees.

Argentine Claim Involved.

Naturally involved in the discussion was the recent Argentine claim to having produced atomic energy by a process similar to that which goes on in the sun. Only two processes can be postulated from anything known at present—the carbon cycle and the deuterium-deuteron reaction. The former requires about 35,000,000 years, the latter a billion years. No other possibility ever has been advanced by responsible scientists. Also involved, naturally, is the question of the hydrogen bomb in which the reaction of converting hydrogen to helium, with a substantial loss of mass, is involved. But in the bomb the reaction must take place in a fraction of a second. Nature's hydrogen bombs require millions of years, at a minimum, to explode.

At the best, the sun can have passed through only one or two of the proton-proton reactions postulated in the present theory.

Very gradually, of course, the whole sun is being transmuted into helium, but at a rate so slow that many billions of years must elapse before there is complete transformation into this inert gas. Then the solar system will be dead.

Questions and Answers

The Star's readers can get the answer to any question of fact by either writing The Evening Star, Attention: Bureau, 1200 I Street N.W., Washington, D. C., or by telephoning 87-7663. Return postage or by telephoning 87-7663.

By THE HASKIN SERVICE.

Q. Of all the banks suspended between 1921 and 1933, how many were national and how many State banks?—N. H. S.

A. According to the records of the Federal Reserve Board, there were 1,128 banks suspended in this period. Of this total, 1,676 were national banks, 440 were State banks, members of the Federal Reserve System, and 9,110 were non-member banks. The last includes private, mutual savings, and State banks, not members of the Federal Reserve System.

Q. How long can angel cake be kept in a freezer and still be edible?—M. R. A. Baked angel food will keep for a year if it is carefully wrapped and sealed. Angel food and sponge cake can be kept in frozen storage much longer than cakes made with fat. After thawing they are like freshly baked cake.

Q. Why did the Japanese call their suicide planes kamikaze or "divine wind"?—L. L.

A. On several occasions windstorms have helped to shape events in the past history of Japan. In 1280, when Kubla Khan tried for the second time to invade Japan, a typhoon destroyed his fleet of 4,000 ships. Earlier, a wind had scattered an invading fleet.

Q. When does the rainy season occur in Florida?—C. C.

A. Comparatively speaking, Florida has two seasons, a rainy and a dry, the former beginning in June, when the average is seven inches, and ending in September. Rainfall diminishes in October. July, August and September are the wettest months.

Fields of Childhood

Oh, once the fields of childhood seemed to utter

A lore profound as the prophet's words to Saul,

A butterfly professed a love of butter,

A dandelion confirmed a mother's call.

Even a major matter could unfold

So well that spring's small seekers need not miss it;

A clover pledged high marks, a daisy told

The answer that a glance could not elicit.

But now though I am wise enough to score

The buttercups and daisies in the field

As buttercups and daisies, nothing more,

I miss the mystic lores these once revealed.

And answers that my wisdom cannot track

Yearn foolishly to bring such powers back.

Ethel Bennett de Vito

This and That

By Charles E. Tracewell

Keep an eye open for "flying ants" these days. They may, or may not be, termites.

Real spring brings them up with a rush.

Often they are first seen in basements, around the laundry tubs, since they like water.

Only an expert can tell which are the real things, but it is a good plan to be on the watch for such manifestations.

And, finding them, to destroy them all, at once, and without mercy.

This way, one need not call in experts. One should be sure of experts. Warnings have been given against those who may set themselves up as termite eradicators.

The real experts can prove their claims.

Do not be stampeded into a lot of costly work by those of whom you are not sure.

Some flying insects that many people think are termites are not such things.

Careful eradication of the flying forms will save a lot of trouble, and perhaps expense.

Be sure that no wood touches the ground, if this is possible.

Those flying forms seeking water in the basement give the tip-off.

These insects need moisture, and so build up tunnels up basement walls. Inspection should be made yearly in the spring for these signs.

Insects are interesting, no matter how much of a threat they are.

They constitute a great order of living things, about a million different forms, and not all identified, by any means.

Most of us will know but a few. There were the small, round, white ones we found under stones, as children; there were the "doodlebugs" that came out of the sawdust around the old icehouse.

These forms seemed to come up when some one sang a ditty to them.

Actually, what happened was that the singer got low enough to the sawdust to disturb their mounds with the vibration of his voice.

Such insects as flies, fleas and the like are known to most people.

Others remain a mystery. Even the roaches and other common household pests are regarded with some awe and disdain, but the average person never even thinks of "looking them up" in a book.